

Chapter XI

Special Opportunities: Wallingford Schools, Wallingford Playfield, and Historic Buildings

Part 1. Wallingford Schools and Wallingford Playground

The quality and stability of Wallingford's schools have an enormous impact on the neighborhood. There are five public schools in or near Wallingford. Lincoln High is in interim use by Ballard High, Hamilton Middle School is expected to move to Lincoln within the next ten years, Latona Elementary is being partially demolished, followed by a major addition and renovation, and MacDonald Elementary, is being used as an interim site for the TOPS program (and may continue to serve as an interim site for other schools during the School District's Building Excellence program). Only B.F. Day Elementary, in Fremont, is expected to remain as it currently exists. These planned physical and programmatic changes, along with new District policies aimed at making it possible for children to again attend public school close to home, offer significant opportunities for Wallingford to influence these important elements of the community.

The relatively low proportion of Wallingford school-age children who attend public schools attests to the fact that much work is needed to make these schools the excellent educational facilities families in Wallingford want for their children. There are several ways in which the community and the City can support the schools and create the kind of public schools we need and desire.

Near the heart of the Wallingford neighborhood are several public facilities that, together, represent an important community resource: the Lincoln High School buildings and site, the Hamilton Middle School buildings and site, and the Wallingford Playfield. These facilities span nearly from Stone Way to Wallingford Avenue, and from 45th Street south to 41st Street, touching much of the core geography of the neighborhood.

In response to the interim placement of the Ballard High School program at the Lincoln site, the Seattle School District convened the Lincoln Liaison Committee (LLC), which developed specific

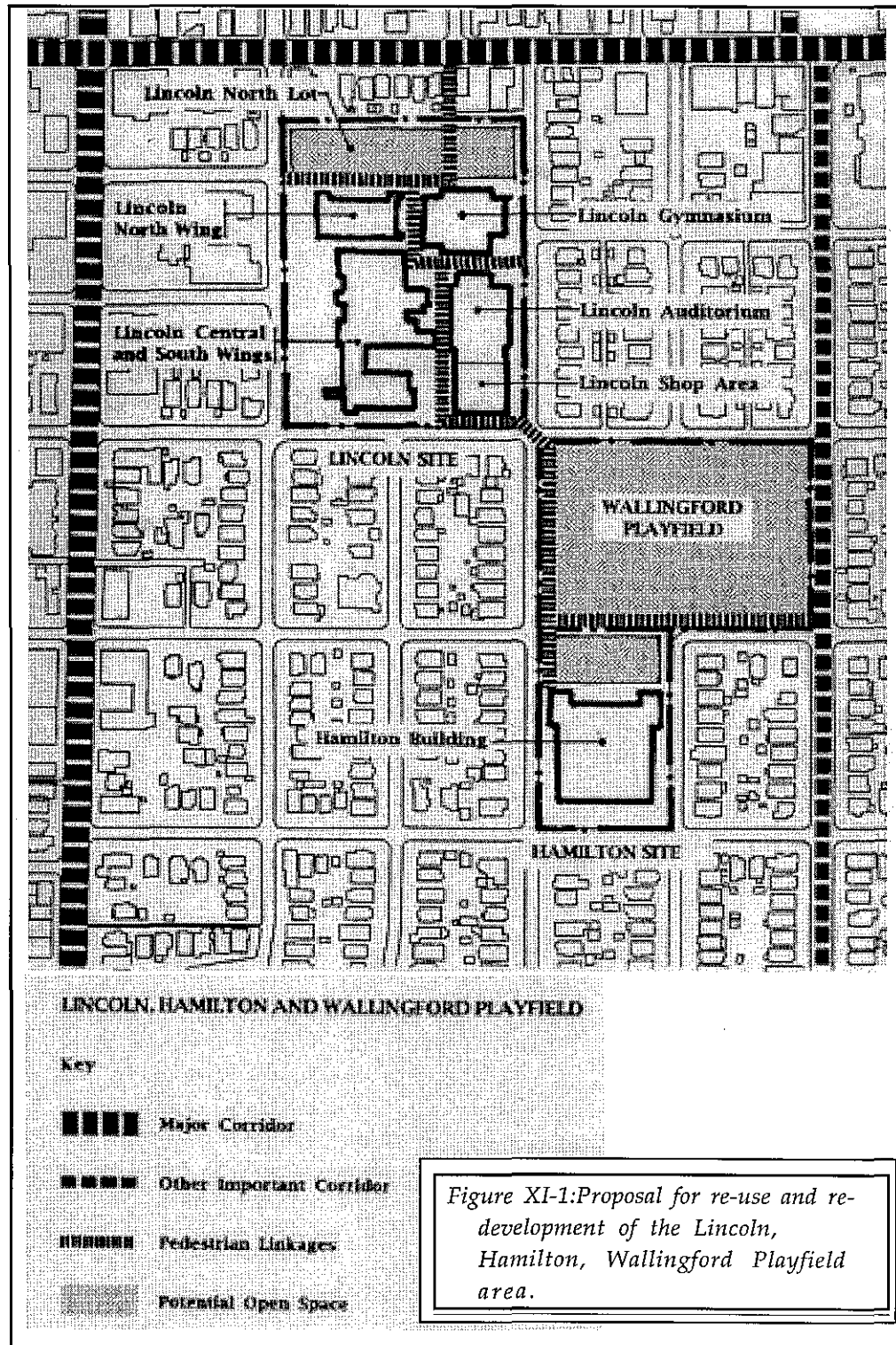
proposals for the District's Lincoln and Hamilton facilities. In developing these proposals, the group was mindful of the underlying needs and priorities of the entire Wallingford community.

Whether the District adopts the recommendations of that committee as given or makes modifications to them, it is the intent of the Wallingford Neighborhood Plan that the City of Seattle support the recommendations of LLC in its dealings with the School District and in the formulation of joint use policies over the long term. The recommendations of the Lincoln Liaison Committee are incorporated into the Wallingford Neighborhood Plan (see Appendix D) and are summarized below. The reader is referred to the appendix for a description of the elements supporting each recommendation.

Lincoln Liaison Committee Recommendations to the Seattle School District

Policies that drive the recommendations.

- Put an excellent, permanent school facility at the Lincoln site; keep the Hamilton facility for educational



and/or Wallingford community use.

- The community should be involved in the planning process for Lincoln and Hamilton.
- Rehabilitate the Hamilton and Lincoln sites to make them assets to the neighborhood and to preserve their historical value.
- . Preserve the single-family, residential nature of the neighborhood around the Lincoln and Hamilton sites.
- Maintain Wallingford Playfield as a community and neighborhood resource for non-school activities.

SO-1: Community Involvement.

* The Seattle School District shall establish and follow a meaningful plan for involving the Wallingford community in decisions regarding the use of both the Lincoln and Hamilton sites, respect the Wallingford neighborhood, and provide a mechanism to respond to the input and opinions offered during the process,

SO-Z Lincoln Site Programs and Uses.

- . The committee recommends that the District proceed with plans to move the Hamilton Middle School program to the Lincoln site as soon as Ballard High School leaves. The Lincoln site shall not be used as an interim site for other high schools.
- . The committee recommends that the District provide adequate activity and playground space on the Lincoln site in order to conform to modern middle school recommended standards and procedures.
- . The committee recommends that the District remodel the existing Auditorium and Gymnasium buildings as needed for use by the school program at Lincoln and support a scheduling policy to allow shared use with Wallingford community groups.
- . The committee recommends that the District provide sufficient parking on site commensurate with being located in a densely populated and predominantly single-family neighborhood.
- . The committee recommends that the District consider providing space at the Lincoln site for programs that enhance the community such as the Wallingford/Wilmot Library, the Wallingford Boy's and Girl's Club, a child daycare program, or a Teacher Training facility, if space is available after meeting the above recommendations.

SO-3 Hamilton Site Programs and Uses.

- . The committee recommends that the District maintain ownership of the Hamilton site.
- The committee recommends that the District give preference to educational uses of the Hamilton site.
- . The committee recommends that the District provide space at the Hamilton site for the programs that enhance the community such as a child daycare center, the Wallingford Boy's and Girl's Club, and adult /community education classes if space is available after meeting the above recommendations.

- . The committee recommends that the District provide long-term leases if the District ends up leasing space in either facility.

Additional Recommendations

Team Wallingford recognizes that the above recommendations were developed specifically to guide the School District and that the community and the City can take additional steps to support better schools in the Wallingford neighborhood and to create a more pleasing and cohesive group of community facilities in the area. To that end, the following measures are proposed

SO-4: Improve Wallingford Playfield and link it to the Hamilton and Lincoln sites.

- Improve drainage at the Wallingford Playfield, and maintain, as much as possible, unscheduled and informal use of the park.
- Initiate a park master planning process to improve park design and access, while continuing its use as an informal gathering place for adults and children of the community, and also to link the park visually with open spaces and community facilities at Lincoln and Hamilton.
- Support pedestrian linkages, through design elements, pathways, signage and sidewalk improvements between N 45th Street, Lincoln High (particularly its community facilities), Wallingford Playfield, and Hamilton.

SO-5: Provide general community support for educational programs in local schools.

- Support all school programs in the Wallingford community, and work, through WEaving Wallingford and community based organizations, to help schools and their students become more involved in community life, and to enlist the community in volunteering, advertising and improving local educational programs.

SO-6 Continue to develop better linkages between school programs and facilities and the community.

- . Foster community use of school facilities by assisting with renovation and maintenance costs if necessary. Support and ensure City funding for joint use agreements with the School District, providing an equitable share of the resources required for maintenance and capital re-investment. At times, consider co-developing sites to better serve both educational needs and the needs of the local community.

For example, in order keep the Lincoln High gymnasium in good condition for both educational and community recreational purposes, some assistance to the School District maybe helpful in the future. In addition, the community would like to improve the appearance of the Lincoln Gym and auditorium, which may require funds beyond those available from the School District.

- . Develop a regular link among all school interest groups and other community groups to foster collaboration on projects which support Wallingford schools and improve the neighborhood

surrounding the schools. WEaving Wallingford will serve as a communication link for Site Councils, PTsAs, and other community groups and can help to recruit community members to join these groups, and can also assist in promoting school programs in the community.

- Explore eventual permanent relocation of the Wallingford-Wilmet Library to the north wing of Lincoln High School, where it would function independently of the school. Wallingford's library is among the smallest branches in the system and yet has the potential to serve a wider student and general population if located where it is easily accessible and has sufficient room to grow. This would allow the Wallingford/Wilmet to become the important community focus.

SO-7: Maintain Public Facilities in Good Condition and in Public Use.

- . The residents of Wallingford would like to see the Seattle School District's facilities used in support of the children of the community and their families. Facilities should be used whenever possible for instruction, and for educational support. In addition, the residents of Wallingford place a high value on the integration of educational facilities and the students into the fabric of the neighborhood.
- .. Planning for the use of all publically owned structures and sites in Wallingford needs to be done with the knowledge that there is a strong desire for community facilities, including open green spaces, meeting rooms and community services such as child care and after-school programs for children. Wherever possible, development should take these often-complementary needs into consideration.
- In order to ensure that school facilities not needed for educational use for some period of time are preserved for school use into the future, and that interim uses which serve the community can afford to make use of those facilities during the interim period, funds from outside of the School District budget may be required. WEaving Wallingford could help to obtain grants and other outside funds to assist in preserving these buildings so that they will always be available for educational use when they are again needed in the future. The City could provide or help to obtain such funds once specific programs have been identified through an informed public process.
- . Neighborhood involvement is critical in the planning for public facilities. Including Wallingford community members in the process of shaping the use and reuse of school buildings will strengthen the schools, and create a school/community partnership that can make both more appealing. A structure should be put in place now to plan for this cooperative enterprise.
- . The City should assist the Wallingford neighborhood in monitoring School District plans for surplussing or re-use of District facilities and negotiate for a first right of refusal in order ensure the opportunity to purchase such properties in the event of surplussing.

Part 2. Historic Buildings

Wallingford has several structures of historic significance. The Latona School and the building which now houses the 45th Street Clinic (originally the Wallingford Fire and Police Station) have both been designated Historic Landmarks by the City of Seattle. Several additional structures and sites in the Wallingford community may qualify for landmark designation, including several school buildings and residential structures. The distinctive character and quality of much of the neighborhood% built

environment is one of the aspects of the neighborhood specifically mention in Wallingford's Vision Statement as a focus of community stewardship.

The Wallingford Neighborhood Plan recognizes that an important task to be undertaken by the community in the next few years is the reexamination of the neighborhood's inventory of historically significant structures and the development of a strategy for maintaining the quality and character of its architectural heritage.